

#E1-129

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Surface Transportation Board Hearing - June 12, 2003

I have lived in Quihi for 16 years. As a relative newcomer I have seen with "fresh eyes" - so to speak- the unique history and architecture that the Quihi area has. I am from one of the largest documented family groups in Texas - over 25,000 descendants in 1990. My great-great grandmother Elizabeth Hoelscher Buxkemper came to Texas from Olfen, Westphalia, Germany in 1850, about the same time as the Quihi settlers came from Germany. And like these settlers here, she came thru by way of the Texas coast at Indianola.

But, unlike these settlers, my ancestors settled closer to the coast instead of out in this wilderness. And my people did not have the unique community and architecture as represented by these Quihi historical sites. I can not even go to a house and say "this is where my ancestors lived when they came over here. But right now the Quihi people can! I am among the many who believe that the historical treasures here are every bit as important as those even in Castroville. Not even one of them should be torn down for a railroad. They should be preserved for posterity. I believe that these antiquities will be destroyed over time with the environmental problems that the railroad will bring. We cannot let that happen.

Respectfully,



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